

Message Text

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TAGS: PEPR, MASS, SW, IN, US
SUBJECT: PRESS RELEASE ON SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH
BURENSTAM LINDER

1. THERE FOLLOWS AN EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF THE TEXT OF A PRESS
RELEASE ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE ON AUGUST 3
ON THE MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY VANCE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE
STAFFAN BURENSTAM LINDER.

2. BEGIN TEXT. MINISTER OF COMMERCE STAFFAN BURENSTAM LINDER
MET ON WEDNESDAY WITH THE US SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE.
THE MEETING, WHICH CAME ABOUT AT THE REQUEST OF THE SWEDISH
GOVERNMENT, WAS CAUSED BY THE AMERICAN REJECTION OF A SWEDISH
REQUEST TO RE-EXPORT AMERICAN COMPONENTS TO INDIA, MAINLY
THE ENGINE, THAT ARE PARTS OF THE VIGGEN AIRPLANE. IN THIS
CONNECTION THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT ALSO WISHED TO PRESENT ITS
VIEW ON CERTAIN QUESTIONS REGARDING THE EXPORT OF TECHNOLOGY
FOR CIVILIAN PURPOSES. THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE MENTIONED AS
AN EXAMPLE THAT SOME SWEDISH COMPANIES HAVE HAD DIFFICULTIES
IN GETTING PERMISSION TO SELL SWEDISH PRODUCTS WITH AMERICAN
COMPONENTS ABROAD.

3. MINISTER OF COMMERCE BURENSTAM LINDER EXPLAINED THE
IMPORTANCE OF A LIMITED ARMS EXPORT TO MAINTAIN A
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DOMESTIC ARMS INDUSTRY, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS IN-
DUSTRY TO SWEDEN'S ABILITY TO CARRY OUT AN INDEPENDENT
FOREIGN POLICY. THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE CLARIFIED THE
SWEDISH GOVERNMENT'S EXTREMELY RESTRICTIVE POLICY AS
CONCERNS THE EXPORT OF WAR MATERIAL, WHICH AMOUNTS TO
LESS THAN ONE PERCENT OF SWEDEN'S TOTAL EXPORT. HE
EXPLAINED WHY SWEDEN HAD DECLARED A WILLINGNESS TO

APPROVE A SALE OF THE VIGGEN TO INDIA, WITH WHOM SWEDEN HAS HAD FOR A LONG TIME A CERTAIN COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ARMS. IN ADDITION, THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE POINTED OUT THAT INDIA'S PURCHASE OF A NEW AIRPLANE IS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPLACING OUTDATED MATERIAL.

4. SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE CONFIRMED THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IS NOT PREPARED TO GRANT PERMISSION FOR THE RE-EXPORT OF THE AMERICAN COMPONENTS IN THE VIGGEN. THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE LICENSE DEALS WITH AN AMERICAN ENGINE WHICH IS USED IN CIVILIAN AIRPLANES ALL OVER THE WORLD. AT THE SAME TIME, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE CIRCUMSTANCES MIGHT BE CHANGED AND THAT SWEDEN RESERVED THE RIGHT TO COME BACK TO THIS ISSUE.

5. THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE ALSO MENTIONED TECHNOLOGY EXPORT IN A WIDER SENSE AND REFERRED TO THE DIFFICULTIES SOME SWEDISH COMPANIES HAVE ENCOUNTERED LATELY. THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THIS WAS NOT AN INDICATION OF A NEW AND TOUGHER AMERICAN POLICY. HE UNDERLINED PARTICULARLY THE IMPORTANCE THAT THE REVIEW OF THE AMERICAN EXPORT CONTROL REGULATIONS, NOW BEGUN, WILL LEAD TO THE REMOVAL OF THE PRESENT UNCERTAINTIES REGARDING AMERICAN POLICY. SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING FOR THIS. END TEXT.
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